

Minutes – June 8, 2011

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 8, 2011 Meeting

Charter Schools – Roberta Tenney introduced representatives for each item.

Renewal of Strong Foundations Charter School – Beth McClure, Principal of Strong Foundations, Thomas Julius, Director of Academic Assessment at Antioch University of New England, and Colleen Sliva, Founding Board member, were present. Beth McClure and Thomas Julius spoke to the issue. A vote is needed from the Board to authorize the renewal of the charter for Strong foundations Charter School. The renewal term is for five years. Strong Foundations currently serves 131 students in grades Readiness-6 with plans to expand to 7th grade in 2011-12 and 8th grade in 2012-13. The students come from many of the surrounding towns. Of those students, 24% are identified with special needs. The school is situated in Pembroke in a former childcare center that has been renovated and expanded. In the 2011 charter renewal application, Strong Foundations has expanded their mission to incorporate the Core Knowledge Curriculum in grades R-8 in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Music, and Art in order to build students' background knowledge and reading comprehension. The school principal is a certified Orton-Gillingham literacy trainer who consults to other schools and districts. Strong Foundations is utilized as a demonstration school for educators who wish to see Orton-Gillingham in practice. Board members expressed concerns regarding this charter school.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Daphne Kenyon, that the State Board of Education authorizes the renewal of Strong Foundations Charter School

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Acting Chairman voting.